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The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Owego, N.Y., Lincoln
Memorial Fund, 1865

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

AN INTERESTING RELIC OF THE DARK DAYS OF 1865.

The Citizens of Owego Who Subscribed to the Testimonial Fund Presented to the Family of President Lincoln Just After His Death.

Today is the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, one of the greatest Presidents of the United States. President Roosevelt is one of the speakers at the birthplace of the great man, in Kentucky, and in almost every city, village and hamlet throughout the country the people are gathered to celebrate the anniversary. For weeks the people of the nation have been exhibiting all sorts of articles, papers and other documents that in any way remind them of Abraham Lincoln or his time.

A reporter of the Owego Daily Record has found an interesting paper of this sort, in the shape of the subscription paper circulated here in the spring of 1865, just after President Lincoln was killed, for the purpose of raising a fund to be presented to the family of the martyred President as a testimonial to his "services, character and death." It was a popular subscription, each subscriber giving one dollar and no more. The paper has been preserved all these years by Edwin Stratton, of the firm of Hastings & Stratton.

We present herewith a complete copy of the paper, which includes not only the appeal from the treasurer of the fund in New York, with his endorsement by some of the most prominent men of the state, but a list of those citizens of Owego who contributed to the fund.

New York, May 1, 1865.

Mr. Charles Stebbins,
Owego, N. Y.,

Sir:

At the request of many patriotic citizens, I am acting as Treasurer of the subscriptions to the Lincoln Memorial Fund, which is being collected here and in some of the neighboring cities, in sums of \$1, to be presented to the family of our late beloved and martyred President, Abraham Lincoln.

The labor of collecting a large sum in small subscriptions will be considerable, but its additional value, as a testimonial from the people, is regarded as a sufficient reason for the restriction of the amount. A list of all the contributors will be presented with the fund, and in due time published.

As it is eminently desirable that all localities should be represented in the fund, I respectfully request your aid, in securing a treasury of this fund at Owego.

In remitting amounts collected, please send the name of each contributor. The receipt of the amounts will be acknowledged by return mail and, to reduce expense for postage, as many as possible should be sent in each remittance.

Below please find blank Subscription List, which you can extend by attaching additional sheets; and merely exhibiting it where our people can see its object, will, I think, be all the appeal necessary in its behalf; for it is a debt we owe to the example, the services, the sacrifices, the character of our Great Departed, and of our Nation, which he loved so well, and in whose cause he died.

Yours respectfully,
BENJAMIN B. SHERMAN,
No. 95 Wall St., New York,
P. O. Box No. 226.

Mr. Sherman's Appeal needs no enforcement from us. We merely attest his worthiness and responsibilities as a custodian of the fund.

GEN. JOHN A. DIX,
H. GREELY,
MOSES TAYLOR,
W. C. BRYANT,
M. O. ROBERTS,
ISAAC SHERMAN.

Names of Subscribers to the "Lincoln Memorial Fund."

A testimonial fund, to be presented to the family of our late Chief Magistrate, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, in memory of his services, character and death.

By the people of the United States. Each subscriber contributes ONE DOLLAR, which is paid at the time of the subscription. As fast as Twenty or more are received, they will be remitted to Benjamin B. Sherman, General Treasurer, No. 95 Wall Street, New York.

Charles Stebbins,
T. G. Stagg,
H. A. Brooks,
F. E. Platt,
Fred G. Jewett,
Abram Brown.

John A. Corbin,
Darwin H. Bloodgood,
F. K. Hull,
C. S. Campbell,
S. Fox,
W. S. Bean,
James H. Clapp,
W. B. Field,
A. Decker,
Frank Sporer,
C. P. Skinner,
I. Crouch,
F. A. Bliss,
Willson Scott,
Thomas Evans,
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Thomas Farrington,
Henry McCormick,
Charles M. Haywood,
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G. F. Pearsall,
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John S. Ross,
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S. J. Hollensworth,
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Calvin Johnson,
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George Snyder,
Allen Barstow,
E. W. Reeves,
Jacob Hand,
Aaron Steele, Apalachin,
James N. Eldridge,
Blzel Woodford,
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George W. Fox,
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W. E. Catlin,
E. S. Buckner,
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Wm. H. Moore,
R. D. Willard,
S. S. Truman,
J. B. Upham,
L. G. Spring,
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John R. Chatfield,
Bayard Boyd,
Scott Harris,
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D. M. Pitcher,
Lucius C. Hewitt,
Charles E. Parker,
M. Day,
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E. B. Phelps,
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E. Daniels, M. D.,
F. H. Pinney,
C. R. Rogers,
Cornellus Potter,
J. B. Brush,
H. W. Cornell,
E. R. Warner,
George Higbee,
D. T. Keeler,
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M. B. Royal,
Wallace T. Brownell,
D. C. Wilbur,
Frank H. Platt,
F. L. Jones,
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J. M. Hollensworth,
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